Government have recently announced the construction of a four-lane / six-lane East West corridor. This will partly cover the said route from Dalkola-Siliguri to Guwahati. Connectivity of National Highway to the said corridor is separately under consideration.

Indore Habitat Project

*386. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the "Indore Habitat Project" has been a commendable success and has brought about a tremendous change in Indore's Urban scape;

(b) whether Government are aware that the project has won International acclaim and secured the Aga Khan Award for 1998 for excellence in architecture; and

(c) if so, whether there are any proposals with Government to recommend similar projects for implementation for the improvement of other towns and cities in India?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that the ODA-UK Government assisted Indore Habitat Improvement Project has been a commendable success and has brought about tremendous change in the improvement of 174 slums of Indore, in which community development and health programmes were implemented which include 148 slums where physical upgradation of infrastructure has been done.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Presently, DFID (formerly ODA)-UK Government is assisting three projects for Slum Development at Calcutta, Cuttack and Cochin and another project to cover 32 class-I towns in Andhra Pradesh is in the the pipe-line.

Revision in the System of Royalty

*387. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has represented to streamline the existing system of departmentally fixing of rates of royalty;

(b) whether Government propose to set up a statutory body of experts to revise rates of royalty;

(c) whether a decision has been taken to revise the rates of royalty for lignite every three years; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not revising the rate since 1990?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): (a) to (d) As per the provisions of Section 9(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, amend the Second Schedule to the Act so as to enhance or reduce the rate at which royalty shall be payable in respect of any mineral with effect from such date, as may be specified in the notification, provided that the Central Government shall not enhance the rate of royalty in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of 3 years. There is no proposal to set up a statutory body of experts to revise rates of royalty. However, a study group representing all interested sections is constituted to recommend the revision in the royalty rates periodcially.

Before the last revision of royalty rates on major minerals (others than Coal and Lignite) which was notified on 11.4.97, the Central Government had constituted a Study Group which had members from some of the important mineral producing States including Gujarat. The Study Group also has consultations with the State Governments and the Mining Industry before submitting its report to the Government. After considering the

recommendations of the Study Group the rates of royalty on major minerals (other than Coal and Lignite) have already been revised vide the Government Gazette Notification GSR No. 214(E) dated 11.4.97, copy of which was laid on the Table of the House on 5.5.97. The Central Government has now constituted a Study Group on 5.10.98 under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Mines) comprising representatives of some of the important mineral producting States. Indian Bureau of Mines, Federation of Indian Mineral Industries, Department of Steel etc. as members. The terms of reference of the Study Group, inter-alia, to provide for review of existing rates of royalty and dead rent on minerals except Coal, Lignite and Sand for Stowing.

As mentioned by the Ministry of Coal, the proviso to Section 9(3) of the Act, prevents the Central Government from enhancing the rate of royalty in respect of any of the major minerals more than once during any period of 3 years but the said sub-section (3) of Section 9 of the Act does not stipulate any specific periodicity for carrying out revision of royalty rates. The rate of royalty on Lignite was last revised in 1990. A Study Group was set up on 16.3.95 by the Ministry of Coal to consider the revision of royalty rates on lignite which submitted its report on 14.9.97 recommending that the rate of royalty on lignite be linked with that of coal, without specifying rate of royalty on lignite. The royalty rates on Coal were last revised on 11.10.94 and a Study Group was set up by the Ministry of Coal on 28.1.97 to consider all aspects relating to revision of rates of royalty on Coal. The Study Group submitted its report to the Government on 17.9.97. Action for a consolidated proposal covering the royalty rates of various grades of Coal as well as Lignite has already been initiated by the Ministry of Coal.

राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र

*388. **श्री कपिल सिब्बल** :

श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह :

क्या शहरी कार्य और रोजगार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच हैं कि राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र बोर्ड का गठन 1985 में किया गया था,

(ख) क्या यह भी सच हैं कि इस बोर्ड को राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र के संतुलित विकास तथा इसके नागरिकों को समान सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराने की जिम्मेदारी सौंपी गई थी,

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस बोर्ड को मार्च, 1998 तक कुल कितनी राशि आबंटित की गई हैं तथा कोई द्वारा कितनी राशि प्रशासनिक, प्रबंधकीय बोर्ड के ढांचे के संचालन हेतु व्यय की गई हैं, और

(घ) शेष कितनी राशि का उपयोग विकास संबंधी कार्यों पर हुआ ?

शहरी कार्य और रोजगार मंत्री (श्री राम जेठमलानी) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) दिल्ली में जनसंख्या दबाव को कम करने और समूचे क्षेत्र का संतुलित एक समान विकास करने के लिए योजनाएं और नीतियां तैयार के लिए बोर्ड का गठन किया गया हैं ।

(ग) वेतन का भुगतान और बोर्ड के अन्य प्रशासनिक खर्चे गैर-योजना राशि से पूरे किए जाते हैं । भारत सरकार ने इस प्रयोजन के लिए जहां 5.40 करोड़ रुपए मुहैया कराए वहीं बोर्ड ने 5.62 करोड़ रुपए खर्च किए । खर्च आधिक्य को बोर्ड की अपनी प्राप्तियों, भविष्य निधि निवेश पर ब्याज और बोर्ड कर्मचारियों से वसूलियों द्वारा पूरा कर लिया गया हैं ।

(घ) मार्च, 1998 तक बोर्ड को निम्नलिखित राशियां प्राप्त हुई :-

(1) योजना, शीर्ष (भारत सरकार)	228.92 करोड़ रु0
(2) राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र दिल्ली सरकार	28.75 करोड़ रु0
(3) आन्तरिक प्राप्तियां	177.82 करोड़ रु0
(4) संस्थागत ऋण/बजार ऋण	85.25 करोड़ रु0
	-520.74 करोड़ रु0